

FIRST STRYKER VEHICLE PROTOTYPE WITH 30MM CANNON DELIVERED TO ARMY

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The first prototype Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle outfitted with a 30mm cannon was delivered to the Army on 27 October.

The upgraded Stryker vehicle will be known as the Dragoon. The prototype also features a new fully-integrated commander's station, upgraded driveline componentry, and hull modifications, according to a press release from Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems (PEO GCS).

"It's important to realize the genesis of this event," said Army Vice Chief of Staff GEN Daniel B. Allyn, speaking at the General Dynamics Land Systems Maneuver Collaboration Center in Sterling Heights, Mich.

Following the 2015 Russian invasion of Ukraine, Army leaders in Europe "identified a capability gap that threatened our forces in theater," Allyn explained. "The Russians, it turns out, had upgraded and fielded significant capabilities while we were engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Army leaders recognized that existing Stryker weaponry placed U.S. forces at "unacceptable risk," he said.

The Urgent Operational Needs statement submitted in March 2015 resulted in a directed Stryker lethality requirement, one that included an accelerated acquisition effort to integrate the 30mm cannon on the vehicles, he said.

Fielding to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Europe will begin in May 2018, which represents "a near-record time from concept to delivery," according to Allyn.

"This is an example of what is possible when government, military, and industry leaders unite as one team," he continued, describing the collaboration between General Dynamics Land Systems and PEO GCS.

The goal, he noted, was to offer forces on the ground the best equipment and protection possible.

"It's all about the people on the ground, serving and sacrificing on our behalf, each and every day, around the globe," he said.

(David Vergun writes for the Army News Service.)



**A prototype of the Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle outfitted with the 30mm cannon.
(Photo courtesy of PEO GCS)**